

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on November 3, 2004.

Claims 18 and 20 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-21 remain pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 was objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 20, line 2, "the a number of plate" should be changed to --the number of plate--. Claim 20 has been amended to remove the noted informalities. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, and 5 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by DuPre et al. (U.S. 5,880,925). The rejection states that DuPre discloses "a plurality of terminals (44, 46), wherein multiple first polarity connections (44) are coupled to a single first polarity terminal and corresponding multiple second polarity connection (46) are coupled to multiple second polarity terminals (figure 4)." Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

DuPre appears to show a plurality of first polarity terminals 44 and a plurality of second polarity terminals 46, however the respective plurality of terminals in DuPre are not coupled to connections as specified in the present claims. The rejection appears to equate the element of first polarity connections with the element of first polarity terminals. However, claim 1 includes *multiple* first polarity connections coupled to a *single* first polarity terminal. Applicant respectfully submits that if reference number 44 of DuPre is both a first polarity connection and a first polarity terminal, then it is impossible for multiple first polarity connections coupled to a single first polarity terminal

Because the DuPre reference does not show every element of Applicant's independent claims, a 35 USC § 102(b) rejection is not supported. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to Applicant's independent claims 1 and 18.

Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend therefrom as depending on allowable base claims.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DuPre et al. (U.S. 5,880,925). Claims 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. (U.S. 6,351,369) in view of DuPre et al. (U.S. 5,880,925). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. (U.S. 6,351,369) in view of DuPre et al. (U.S. 5,880,925) as applied in claim 18 above, and further in view of Palanduz et al. (U.S. 6,795,296).

Applicant respectfully submits that the additional references of Kuroda and Palanduz fail to cure the rejection based on DuPre as outlined above.

Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show every element of Applicant's independent claims, a 35 USC § 103(a) rejection is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to claims 4, 18, 19, and 21

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant has not rewritten claims 2 or 20 in independent form at this time in consideration of the arguments presented above. Applicant has incorporated portions of claim 20 into independent claim 18.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 373-6944) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

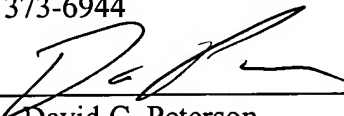
Respectfully submitted,

AARON J. STEYSKAL ET AL.

By their Representatives,

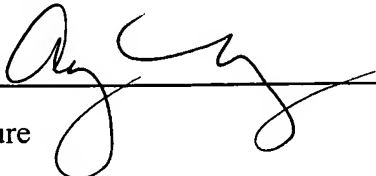
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Date 1-24-05

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 24th day of January, 2005.

Amy Moriarty
Name


Signature